



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

HB 5135

165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1658

**An Act Preventing the Closure or Relocation of Child Welfare Offices
in High Need Areas**

**Human Services Committee
March 4, 2014**

As the agency responsible for handling the leasing functions to house the Department of Children & Families' (DCF) offices, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) offers the following testimony regarding House Bill 5135.

House Bill 5135 seeks to prevent the relocation of DCF offices to communities that generate a lower percentage of cases for the agency. While DAS appreciates the intent and goals of this proposal, we are concerned that such legislation would significantly impact DAS's ability to competitively procure office space for the agency, raising costs for the state and impairing our ability to find office locations that meet the agency's operational needs.

While the geographic location of clients is of paramount importance to the agency when siting office locations, also important are factors such as office size, office layout, office security, accessibility to individuals with disabilities, accessibility to public transportation, parking needs and cost. In some communities, suitable office space that meets the agency's needs may be unavailable. The passage of House Bill 5135 would place the state at considerable disadvantage by restricting DAS's ability to seek competitive proposals from a wider geographic location to meet the agency's needs.

We thank the Committee for allowing DAS to comment on House Bill 5135. If there are any questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact Terrence Tulloch-Reid (Terrence.Reid@ct.gov) or Andrea Keilty (Andrea.Keilty@ct.gov).